GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4149
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
SEX DETERMINATION TEST
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath;Deora Shri Milind Murli;Nambadan Shri Lonappan;Yadav Shri Sita Ram

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that illegal sex determination is going unabatedly in our country especially in Delhi in collusion with the officials in the private Nursing Homes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ;

(c) whether any survey had been conducted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has directed all the States to ban sex determination test being carried out illegally and seize the unregistered and unlicensed ultra sound machines installed in clinics ;

(f) if so, the details of the action taken by the Union and State Governments ;

(g) apart from the PNDT Law, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent illegal sex-selection abortions; and

(h) the details of action taken against the violators of the PNDT Act, 1994 ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): Cases of sex determination/communication of sex of the foetus has been reported from haryana (12), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra(2) and Punjab(6).In Delhi 73 cases have been filed against violators of the law out which 67 are for non- registration of the clinic and 6 are for advertisement about facilities of pre- conception/pre-natal sex selection.

(c)&(d):Constant inspection and survey of the clinics using ultrasound machines are being undertaken by most of the States.The National Inspection and Monitoring Committee set up by the Centre also makes surprise inspections of centers/clinic in Delhi and neighboring States to take stock of the ground realities.

(e):Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 29.1.2002 in the Writ Petition (Civil)No.301/2000 had, inter alia, directed the concerned State Governments/UTs to seal and seize the ultrasound machines of those Clinics who have not registered under the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

(f): The implementation of the Act rest with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed at State, district as well as at sub-district levels.The States/UTs have been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act and Rules and to effectively implement the same in letter and spirit. As per the reports, more than 24,152 bodies using ultrasound machines have been registered under the Act so far.212 machines have been sealed and seized and, 415 complaints have been filed in the Courts/Police against violators of the law as on 30.6.2004.

(g):Various activities have been undnertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also being organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/ block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice.Recently, the Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign'with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.Ms. Aruna Kesavan has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Government's 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign, 2005.

(h):As stated above, 212 machines have been sealed and seized and 415 complaints have been filed in the Courts/Police against violators of the law as on 30.6.2004.